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Fulbright Says Opposition to Test Ban Declines

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WASHINGTON, Aug 16 — J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was confident today that opposition to the limited nuclear test ban treaty "has been narrowed" by the committee's first week of hearings.

The Arkansas Democrat said the Administration witnesses had been "competent and persuasive," and as a consequence "some of the potential opposition is fairly well-satisfied."

"Some who were raising questions at the beginning now seem to be persuaded," the Senator said.

Mr. Fulbright estimated that "fewer than twenty" Senators would probably vote against ratification of the treaty. This was also the rough estimate of maximum opposition strength by several Senators when the hearings opened last Monday.

Two Treaty Foes Noted

Mr. Fulbright said it would be most unusual if only two Senators voted against the treaty. This was taken as an allusion to Senators Strom Thurmond, Democrat of South Carolina, and Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona. From their statements in the hearings, the certain opposition has been announced by some Senators.

Under the Constitution, two-thirds of the Senators present and voting must approve ratification of a treaty.

Senator John O. Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island, who is chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, agreed that the treaty would be approved by a wide margin.

He said that he had been very much assured by the "strong statements" in favor of the bill made by the witnesses today—Secretary of State Dean

Sees 'Fewer Than Twenty' Senators Rejecting Pact —McCone Backs It

Rusk; Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara; Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission; Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and former A.E.C. chairman.

The two chairmen made their statements after the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees and Senate members of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee had heard Mr. McCone.

In secret session, the C.I.A. head presented highly classified information on the Soviet nuclear-energy program and on United States capabilities in detecting Soviet tests.

He also testified on the advantages of a test ban treaty in discouraging the spread of nuclear weapons to other nations.

Statement on McCone

Afterwards Senator Fulbright released the following statement:

"Mr. McCone told the Senators that he had studied all the relevant data carefully many times in recent years, since similar proposals [for banning tests in the atmosphere, under water and in outer space] were made by President Eisenhower [in 1959].

"He said he had previously taken a position in support of the view that a ban on nuclear test explosions in the atmosphere would be compatible with the national security of the United States.

"He testified today that he had not changed his mind and that in the light of the intelligence

he presented today he favored the nuclear test ban treaty now before the Senate."

Senator Fulbright said that Mr. McCone, like the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had stressed the need to continue underground tests, strengthen detection apparatus and maintain weapons laboratories and the Pacific proving ground for a resumption of atmosphere tests if the Russians abrogate the treaty.

Yesterday the Armed Services Committee, on the motion of Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, asked the Joint Chiefs for a statement of "specific requirements" necessary to carry out the proposed safeguards.

After the McCone briefing today, Senator Richard B. Russell, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said he realized that the Joint Chiefs could not produce this material in great detail now.

"We don't expect them to say that they are going to explode five underground tests in June, 1964," the Georgia Democrat said. "What we want is assurance that they will maintain a very live organization ready to move if the Russians violate the agreement as they did the moratorium on atmosphere tests in 1961."

Jackson Defends Request

Senator Jackson said today that his request was "not a dilatory move" to delay a vote on the treaty, and that he was prepared to be "reasonable" about evaluating the information sent by the Joint Chiefs. He thought information of the kind he sought could be assembled in "a couple of weeks."

"I want members of the Senate to be able to vote intelligently," Mr. Jackson said. "I want to be able to say the safeguards will be implemented. What we in effect need is a second treaty between the Legislature and the Executive."